

What is claimed is:

1        1.        A computer system comprising a server and at least one user  
2 computer having a user configuration of a user operating system and at least  
3 one application program, further comprising:

4                software means for storing the parameters of said user configuration;  
5                a set of backup non-specific copies, stored in a portion of said system  
6 other than said user computer, of a set of operating systems, including said  
7 user operating system, and a set of application programs, including said at  
8 least one application program; and

9                software means for restoring said user configuration by copying  
10 selected items from said set of backup copies to said user computer in  
11 accordance with the parameters of said user configuration.

1        2.        A system according to claim 1, in which said software means  
2 monitors user choices during an installation process installing said user  
3 configuration.

1        3.        A system according to claim 1, in which said software means records  
2 user choices during a parameter specifying process before the installation of  
3 said user configuration.

1        4.        A system according to claim 1, in which said software means  
2 examines the parameters of an existing user configuration.

1        5.        A system according to claim 2, in which said software means further  
2 comprises means for recording incremental changes to said user

3 configuration.

1 6. A system according to claim 3, in which said software means further  
2 comprises means for recording modifications to said user configuration.

1 7. A system according to claim 4, in which said software means further  
2 comprises means for re-examining the parameters of said existing user  
3 configuration and recording modifications thereto.

1 8. A computer system comprising a server and at least one user  
2 computer having a user configuration of a user operating system and at least  
3 one application program, further comprising:  
4 software means for storing the parameters of said user configuration;  
5 means for accessing a set of backup non-specific copies, stored  
6 outside said system, of a set of operating systems, including said user  
7 operating system, and a set of application programs, including said at least  
8 one application program; and  
9 software means for restoring said user configuration by copying  
10 selected items from said set of backup copies to said user computer in  
11 accordance with the parameters of said user configuration.

1        9.     A system according to claim 8, in which said software means  
2        monitors user choices during an installation process installing said user  
3        configuration.

1        10.    A system according to claim 8, in which said software means records  
2        user choices during a parameter specifying process before the installation of  
3        said user configuration.

1        11.    A system according to claim 8, in which said software means  
2        examines the parameters of an existing user configuration.

1        12.    A system according to claim 9, in which said software means further  
2        comprises means for recording incremental changes to said user  
3        configuration.

1        13.    A system according to claim 10, in which said software means further  
2        comprises means for recording modifications to said user configuration.

1        14.    A system according to claim 11, in which said software means further  
2        comprises means for re-examining the parameters of said existing user  
3        configuration and recording modifications thereto.

1 15. An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising  
2 means for performing a method for operating a computer system comprising  
3 a server and at least one user computer having a user configuration of a user  
4 operating system and at least one application program, said method  
5 comprising the steps of:

6 storing the parameters of said user configuration;

7 storing a set of backup non-specific copies, stored in a portion of said  
8 system other than said user computer, of a set of operating systems,  
9 including said user operating system, and a set of application programs,  
10 including said at least one application program; and

11 restoring said user configuration by copying selected items from said  
12 set of backup copies to said user computer in accordance with the  
13 parameters of said user configuration.

1 16. An article of manufacture according to claim 15, further comprising a  
2 step of monitoring user choices during an installation process installing said  
3 user configuration.

1 17. An article of manufacture according to claim 15, further comprising a  
2 step of recording user choices during a parameter specifying process before  
3 the installation of said user configuration.

1 18. An article of manufacture according to claim 15, further comprising a  
2 step of examining the parameters of an existing user configuration.

1 19. An article of manufacture according to claim 16, further comprising a  
2 step of recording incremental changes to said user configuration.

1     20.   An article of manufacture according to claim 17, further comprising a  
2     step of recording modifications to said user configuration.

1     21.   An article of manufacture according to claim 18, further comprising a  
2     step of re-examining the parameters of said existing user configuration and  
3     recording modifications thereto.